

Assurance Argument Summary

Andrews University - MI

2/10/2017

Criterion 1 - Mission

The institution's mission is clear and articulated publicly; it guides the institution's operations.

Criterion 1- Strengths

- Infusion of mission throughout the institution and its publications, with appropriate application to different areas and disciplines
- Intentionality in global reach that conforms to institutional mission
- Deep commitment to service to the community at individual, department and institutional level

Criteria 1 - Future Considerations

- Deepening the commitment to diversity within the University structure, as for example by appointment of a senior administrator as the chief diversity officer
- Continued awareness of diversity at all levels of the University in hiring as positions become available, including intentionality in mentoring minorities for potential positions
- Development of a more structured approach to service engagement in the community (locally, nationally and internationally) to maximize institutional impact

Criterion 2 - Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct

The institution acts with integrity; its conduct is ethical and responsible.

Criterion 2 - Strengths

- Development of a Board Policies Manual which clarifies governance roles and ethical board behavior
- Formalizing institutional compliance expectations through a compliance committee with annual report to the Board
- Creation of the Faculty Senate with clarity of governance identified through a shared governance document
- Online module training for FERPA and Title IX

Criterion 2 – Future Consideration

- Embedding FERPA, and Title IX training into institutional operational cycle
- Embedding integrity policy with more student ownership into academic operations

Criterion 3 - Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support

The institution provides high quality education, wherever and however its offerings are delivered.

Criterion 3 - Strengths

- High Impact Practices: Undergraduate Research, Study Tours
- Introduction of the M.I.R.R.O.R program to deepen engagement with diversity
- Depth and stability of faculty
- Increase of focused faculty development through the Faculty Institute; and the Effective Teaching and Learning Council
- Increased infrastructure to support online and off-campus learning, including Digital Commons and the establishment of the School of Distance Education & International Partnerships
- Strong connection between student engagement with campus mission and priorities, through academic and co-curricular programming
- Health & Wellness initiative
- A strong process for providing support to struggling students.

Criterion 3 – Future Considerations

- Capitalize on Andrews' diversity in students' learning experience.
- Continue to develop a strong first-year experience that integrates the curriculum and the co-curriculum.
- Continue to develop and integrate the Andrews University Unified Framework of Outcomes in ACE and across all levels of Andrews' programs.
- Develop a system of faculty peer review.

Criterion 4 - Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement

The institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs, learning environments, and support services, and it evaluates their effectiveness for student learning through processes designed to promote continuous improvement.

Criterion 4 - Strengths

- A well developed process for program review.
- A strong process for approval of new courses and programs.
- Many programs with specialized accreditation.
- Annual assessment retreats have been a successful means of engaging faculty in routine program assessment.
- Emerging models of good practice in connecting assessment to academic decision-making
- Andrews' Explore program appears to be a successful initiative for attracting and retaining undecided students.

Criterion 4 - Future Considerations

- Ensure that all programs complete a periodic program review.
- Continue to provide training sessions to strengthen faculty participation in assessment.
- Develop a reporting tool in Learning Hub for aggregation of rubric scores.
- Consider how to better engage faculty in using results from the National Survey of Student Engagement.
- Develop more efficient process for obtaining completion rates of graduate students

Criterion 5 - Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness

The institution's resources, structures, and processes are sufficient to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its educational offerings, and respond to future challenges and opportunities. The institution plans for the future.

Criterion 5 - Strengths

- Financial planning and Strategic planning connected
- Organizational changes to support decision-making: University Strategy and Policy Committee, and Faculty Senate
- Success of Griggs University merger resulting in increased professionalism in online and distance education
- Unity of internal governance groups around institutional mission
- Successful follow-through and positive impact of critical strategic decisions
- Significant decisions to change direction due to assessment evidence
- Wide engagement in planning processes
- Growth of systems to increase cross-departmental decisions

Criterion 5 - Future Considerations

- Continued need to adjust budgets to align with financial goals
- Expansion of capacity of ITS to meet best-practice needs
- Development of a Staff Council to broaden staff engagement in decisions (parallel to Faculty Senate)
- Development of greater capacity to shift flexibly with demographic shifts through such tools as BKD